mediates for which enough capacities have been created and lying idle as well as self sufficiency attained which are allowed under OGL;

(f) if so, whether his Ministry has made any study in this direction; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a)to (d) Import Policy is determined by the Ministry of Commerce after taking into consideration various recommendations and factors. The same principle applies to drugs also.

(e) to (g) As and when requests for making changes in the import policy are received from the industry, the same are examined and recommendations made to the C.C.I. & E. accordingly.

Payment made for buying off-shore Platforms

715. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that avoidable payment of Rs. 5 crore was made to a contractor by ONGC while buying off-shore KVX platforms;

(b) if so, whether responsibility has been fixed on the concrned persons for unauthorised deviation of the agreed conditions of the contract and action taken against them; and

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has indicted the ONGC for this lapse?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) On a review of the ONGC contract for purchase of SK, NV and NX platforms, also known as KVX platforms, the Audit had pointed out that there has been an unauthorised deviation from the general conditions of the contract which resulted in an undue benefit of Rs. 5.10 crores to the contractor. This matter has been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Production stage of Rifampicin

716. SHRI JASWANT SINGH:
SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3386 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th August, 1987 and state:

(a) what is the stage from which each producer of Rifampicin was allowed to be produced along with the capacity sanctioned in each case;

(b) since when each producer is producing Rifampicin along with the stage of manufacture;

(c) whether his Ministry is monitoring the production of Rifampicin,

(d) if so, what was the production of each producer during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) whether it is a fact that BICP conducted cost-cum-technical study of production of Rifampicin;

(f) what was the price at which intermediate or penaltimate was found to be imported;

(g) what price was recommended for Rifampicin by BICP;

(h) whether any unit is producing from basic stage; and

(i) if so, what are the names of those units along with cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) In the organised sector, M/s. Lupin Labs. and Themis Chemical are producing Rifampicin. M/s. Lupin is producing from intermediate stage since January, 1986. Such details in respect of M/s. Themils Chemicals are not readily available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (g) The price notified by the Government is Rs. 3000 per kgs.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

(f) Import of Intermediates/penultimates is not monitored.

Subsidence in Asansol and Raniganj Colliery belt

717. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that the rate of subsidence in the Asansol and Raniganj Colliery belt, which was gradual some years ago has now assumed a threatening proportion;

(b) whether large scale sinkage of land has created an alarming situation for the inhabitants in the absence of requisite stabilisation work by the Government so far;

(c) if so, what special and urgent steps are being contemplated to arrest this subsidence; and

(d) what are the views of the Geologists about the earth crust in Raniganj and whether most advanced technology, available in the West, will be employed to avert the impending calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a to (d) Asansol-Raniganj coal belt has been witnessing occurrences of land subsidence over the last several years. This is due to unscientific methods of coal exploitation practised in the prenationalisation days. As early as in 1950, the Director General of Mines Safety declared 40 places as unsafe for habitation in the Burdwan district of West Bengal. Construction activities have been prohibited in 25 of these areas. A number of steps are being taken to check subsidence. These are:—

(i) Carrying out of mining operations in full conformity with rules and regulations and strictly as per the conditions imposed by the Director General of Mines Safety;

(ii) No extraction is done below built-in areas without stowing;

(iii) Restricted working/extraction in the case of workings under shallow cover.

A novel method of sand stowing through surface bore-holes is in an advanced stage of experimentation at Ramjibanpur. On completion of these trials, results would be evaluated and this technique of arresting subsidence will be extended to other areas.

U.S. offer of latest Telecommunication Technology

718. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has offered to India and latest telecommunications technology;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the benefits from this offer are likely to start flowing?